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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/808,686 | 03/15/2001 | James G. Watson | 21046-PA | 5132 |

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02/14/2002

LEONARD BLOOM & ASSOCIATES, LLC
Intellectual Property Law Offices
401 Washington Avenue, Suite 905
Towson, MD 21204

EXAMINER

DEXTER, CLARK F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3724

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/808,686

Applicant(s)
Watson

Examiner
Clark F. Dexter

Art Unit
3724



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 26, 2001

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) 6-13 and 15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 14 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on Nov 26, 2001 is: ☒ approved ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed November 26, 2001 has been entered. It is noted that in view of the new amendment practice under 37 CFR 1.121 which became mandatory for all amendments on March 1, 2001, and due to the limited amount of examining time per application, if the amendment contains changes to existing language that requires a marked-up version showing those changes, the Examiner is relying upon the marked-up version(s) for examination of the application. It is applicant's responsibility to ensure that the clean version(s) is (are) the same as the marked-up version(s). It is further noted that the clean version(s) is (are) considered to be the Official version(s).

Drawings

2. The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed substitute sheets of drawings, filed on November 26, 2001 have been **approved**.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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4. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Sberveglieri, pn 5,943,932.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Wiater, pn 3,841,188.

Wiater discloses an apparatus with every structural limitation of the claimed invention including a housing (e.g., 10).

In the alternative, if it is argued that a housing is not disclosed, the Examiner takes Official notice that housings for use in such apparatus, for example table saws, are old and well known in the art and provide various known benefits including enclosing the area under the work surface to protect the saw assembly as well as safety considerations. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide a housing on the apparatus of Wiater for the well known benefits including those described above.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. Claims 2 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wiater, pn 3,841,188 in view of Sberveglieri, pn 5,720,213.

Wiater discloses an apparatus with almost every structural limitation of the claimed invention but lacks a rod as claimed. Sberveglieri discloses such a rod and teaches various benefits including facilitating operation and control of the saw from outside the housing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide the rod and related structure of Sberveglieri on the apparatus of Wiater for the benefits taught by Sberveglieri including that described above.

Regarding claim 14, Wiater discloses an apparatus which includes a housing (e.g., 10). In the alternative, if it is argued that a housing is not disclosed, the Examiner takes Official notice that housings for use in such apparatus, for example table saws, are old and well known in the art and provide various known benefits including enclosing the area under the work surface to protect the saw assembly as well as safety considerations. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide a housing on the apparatus of Wiater for the well known benefits including those described above.

8. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sberveglieri, pn 5,720,213 in view of Wiater, pn 3,841,188.

Sberveglieri discloses an apparatus with almost every structural limitation of the claimed invention but lacks a work-holding member as claimed. However, the Examiner takes Official

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notice that such work-holding members are old and well known in the art as evidenced by Wiater for various known benefits including for positioning a workpiece during a cutting operation.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to provide a work-holding member on the apparatus of Sberveglieri for the well known benefits including that described above.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clark Dexter whose telephone number is (703) 308-1404. The examiner's typical work schedule is Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and he can be reached during normal business hours on these days.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Allan Shoap, can be reached at (703)308-1082.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148. The fax numbers for this group are: formal papers - (703)305-3579; informal/draft papers - (703)305-9835.


Clark F. Dexter
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3724

cf
February 11, 2002